

Elderly Falls With and Without Head Injury  
Source: Hospital Discharge Database 2008

This report was developed at the request of STAB members as a result of a prior report showing the outcomes of under-triaged patients. A cohort was identified consisting of elderly patients who sustained an injury from a fall and subsequently died as a result of closed head injury after they were taken to a non-designated Trauma Center. The purpose of this report was to see if these patients had better outcomes if they were taken to a Trauma Center. The data is from the Hospital Discharge Database for the year 2008.

The first table below shows the number of patients who are over 65 years of age who fell and did not sustain a head injury. The second table shows the same cohort of patients who fell and did sustain a head injury. It is not known if the patients with a head injury were brought to the hospital with a chief complaint of head trauma or if the injury was subsequently diagnosed as a result of additional testing.

The outcomes are not statistically significant between Trauma Centers and non-Trauma Centers using the chi-square method.

***HDD 2008: Patients with falls aged >65 (No head injury)***

Outcome	Elderly with Falls (head injury excluded)		
	Non-trauma Center	Trauma center	Total
<b>Died</b>	101 1.3%	22 1.5%	123
<b>Lived</b>	7,474 98.7%	1,404 98.5%	8,878
<b>Total</b>	7,575	1,426	9,001

***HDD 2008: Patients with falls and head injury, age >65***

Outcome	Trauma Center		
	No	Yes	Total
<b>Died</b>	32 4.9%	31 7.3%	63
<b>Lived</b>	620 95.1%	390 92.6%	1,010
<b>Total</b>	652	421	1,073

The remainder of the report shows the Discharge Status for both groups.

Discharge Status Fall NO Head Injury		Trauma center	
	Frequency Col Pct	No	Yes Total
Discharged to Home or Self Care	1139 15.04	290 20.34	1429
Discharged/transferred to a Short-Term General Hospital for Inpatient care	115 1.52	7 0.49	122
Discharged/transferred to a Skilled Nursing Facility	3804 50.22	697 48.88	4501
Discharged/transferred to an Intermediate Care Facility(Assisted Living Facility)	15 0.20	66 4.63	81
Discharged/transferred to a Designated Cancer Center or Children's Hospital	8 0.11	3 0.21	11
Discharged/transferred to home under care of Organized Home Health Service Organization	643 8.49	112 7.85	755
Left against medical advice or discontinued care	8 0.11	1 0.07	9
Admitted as an Inpatient to this Hospital	1 0.01	0 0.00	1
Expired	101 1.33	22 1.54	123
Discharged/transferred to a Federal Health Care Facility	4 0.05	1 0.07	5
Discharged home with Hospice	80 1.06	12 0.84	92
Discharged/transferred to Hospice in a Medical Facility	238 3.14	42 2.95	280
Discharged/transferred to a Swing Bed	10 0.13	0 0.00	10
Discharged/transferred to an Inpatient Rehabilitation Facility	1372 18.11	142 9.96	1514
Discharged/transferred to a Long Term Care Hospital	22 0.29	14 0.98	36
Discharged/transferred to a Psychiatric Hospital	11 0.15	0 0.00	11
Discharged/transferred to another Type of Health Care Institution not Defined Elsewhere in this Code List	4 0.05	17 1.19	21
<b>Total</b>	<b>7575</b>	<b>1426</b>	<b>9001</b>

Discharge Status Fall WITH Head Injury		Trauma center	
Frequency Col Pct	No	Yes	Total
Discharged to Home or Self Care	243 37.27	154 36.58	397
Discharged/transferred to a Short-Term General Hospital for Inpatient care	20 3.07	1 0.24	21
Discharged/transferred to a Skilled Nursing Facility	160 24.54	87 20.67	247
Discharged/transferred to an Intermediate Care Facility(Assisted Living Facility)	6 0.92	13 3.09	19
Discharged/transferred to a Designated Cancer Center or Children's Hospital	1 0.15	2 0.48	3
Discharged/transferred to home under care of Organized Home Health Service Organization	59 9.05	39 9.26	98
Left against medical advice or discontinued care	6 0.92	1 0.24	7
Expired	32 4.91	31 7.36	63
Discharged/transferred to a Federal Health Care Facility	1 0.15	1 0.24	2
Discharged home with Hospice	12 1.84	7 1.66	19
Discharged/transferred to Hospice in a Medical Facility	33 5.06	35 8.31	68
Discharged/transferred to a Swing Bed	2 0.31	0 0.00	2
Discharged/transferred to an Inpatient Rehabilitation Facility	73 11.20	33 7.84	106
Discharged/transferred to a Long Term Care Hospital	2 0.31	5 1.19	7
Discharged/transferred to a Psychiatric Hospital	2 0.31	1 0.24	3
Discharged/transferred to another Type of Health Care Institution not Defined Elsewhere in this Code List	0 0.00	11 2.61	11
Total	652	421	1073